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## INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By E. O. REILLY, Acting Director of Sunday School Course, Moody Bible Institute.  
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LESSON FOR FEBRUARY 20

CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD.

LESSON TEXT—Acts 4:32-35.  
GOLDEN TEXT—Love one another from the heart fervently.—1 Pet. 1:22 11. V.

The Sanhedrin had tried threatening upon the disciples and this is generally pretty weak business. But their threat meant danger and the disciples were not unduly puffed up over their deliverance. With all their believing friends they prayed and in response the Holy Spirit came upon them in still further measure (4:23-31).

I. The Spirit-Filled Believers, 4:32-37. The two sections of this lesson are really one and are designed to bring out sharply the contrast between the Holy Spirit-filled church and an evil spirit-filled man. The communism of the early church was (a) Christian communion (see 2:44); and it was (b) for a special occasion; (c) it was benevolent—each had according to his "needs" (4:34, 35); (d) it was voluntary (5:4); and (e) it recognized the right to private property (see 5:4, 9). He, the Holy Spirit, does bring that unity, that altruism, those active social relations and services of which Pentecostal communism is the type. Unity and love are seen in genuine Christianity in all ages, but the forms of their expression may differ.

The power of the Holy Spirit was manifested, not merely in love and unity which it produced, in the brotherhood thus evidenced, but also in the testimony given for the Lord Jesus Christ, "with great power gave the apostles witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ." There is much witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ in our day, but not always "with great power." When we are filled with the Holy Spirit it is of Jesus, and especially of his resurrection, that we will bear witness.

Another result of being filled with the Holy Spirit was that grace was upon all. "Grace" means favor. We are not told whether it was God's favor or man's favor that was upon them. It seems to imply both (see Luke 2:52). No man looked upon his own interests, but "every man on the things of others." Distribution was made according to each had need, not according to his ability, not according to his notable service. The pre-eminent illustration of Christian love in the brotherhood at Jerusalem was Barnabas. If we had more of such today we would have less of union labor troubles and missionary deficits. We do well to consider carefully the six distinguishing features of this early church: (1) A praying church (4:24-30), (2) a Spirit-filled church (31), (3) a united church (32), (4) a witnessing church (33), (5) a ministering church (34, 35), (6) a multiplying church (36, 37).

II. The Devil-Possessed Unbeliever 5, 1-16. Barnabas had received great praise for what he had done at the impulse of the Holy Spirit in his life. I am an exceedingly fair picture, but the scene of the early church had been from foes without, now it faces the greater peril of foes within. And when this great question, regarding the deity and personality of the Holy Spirit is first brought to light. God, through his church, dealt with it in a stern manner. The devil is always presenting his imitations of everything good and holy. Ananias and Sapphira were not willing to make a like sacrifice. They, too, "sold a possession," but they secreted a part of the price and brought the rest with the intent to deceive the church. The Holy Spirit quickly informed the church of this. Hypocrisy and, Spirit-guided, they were not deceived. For Ananias to lie in the atmosphere of love and consecration engendered by the Holy Spirit made his crime the more unpardonable. The same words are used in describing his actions as those used in describing the actions of Barnabas up to a certain point. But what a difference we see subsequently. In the case of Barnabas his act was a deed of self-forgetting love; in the case of Ananias it was one of calculating hypocrisy. We thus see that the early church was not as perfect as some would have us imagine it to be.

The second section of this paragraph (vv. 12-16) is a record of what the results of this vindication of the Holy Spirit were. First the Spirit came upon the apostles and literally overflowed upon all those about them. In the second place those who were thinking of joining the church for mercenary motives were held back from so doing (v. 13).

If the Holy Spirit were present in such power today there would be fewer hypocrites who would dare to join themselves to it.

The deception of Ananias was deliberate (v. 4); he had talked it over with his wife (v. 2, 9), and he was a grave danger to this early church. It threatened to choke the very fountain of love and unity which had sprung up in the midst of the selfish world.

The stern judgment that came upon Ananias and Sapphira was richly merited and indeed was gracious, for it sifted and saved the church.

## Feather Bandings on Afternoon Gowns



As if loath to say good-by to fur bandings, which have been featured this season as a finish for gowns, fashion has turned to marabou and ostrich feather bandings in a number of the frocks designed for spring and for present wear. These bandings are wider than the marabou edgings which were so popular a few seasons ago, and ostrich feathers combined with marabou or used alone are conspicuous in them.

Bands made entirely of ostrich fibers are likely to be in two colors, as dark brown with white fibers intermixed, or gray with white, or in two shades of one color, the darker color or shade predominating. They are very handsome but less durable than marabou bandings, because the fibers are liable to lose their curl. Airy and fragile looking as marabou down is, it withstands wear and dampness astonishingly well.

One of the new feather-trimmed frocks is shown here finished with a full fluffy-looking banding of marabou and ostrich combined. It is a graceful dress cut on simple lines and made of dark gray satin as soft as crepe. There is an underbodice and sleeves of georgette crepe, but with this and a double skirt the frock still manages to be a one-piece garment.

The satin bodice is cleverly cut with a lengthened panel at the back which gives it the appearance of a little coat. A girdle extends from each side of this panel to the front panel, and a band of feathers forms a border for it. The front panel reaches from the neck of the bodice to the hem of the overdress. The satin bodice is cut in a shallow V at the back and front and the crepe underbodice is pulled into a narrow embroidered yoke with a round neck opening.

The sleeves are long with deep, straight, turned-back cuffs, and the fur banding is placed about the edge of the cuffs and not about the hands. The dress fastens at one side of the front panel with small shank buttons of smoked pearl. A short band of feathers extends across the back of the neck of the underbodice.

The underskirt is finished with a plain three-inch hem which provides the fashionable panel at the back, reaching from waist line to hem.

Its length of line is unbroken except for the short piece of banding that edges the bodice extension, which would be better left off if the frock is to be made for a short figure.

Feather bandings are best suited to afternoon and evening dresses. For tailored suits cloth bands answer the call of fashion for this kind of finish.

## Motor Hats That Stay On



Gradually it has come about that everyone who motors, be it more or less, insists upon wearing the proper motor headgear, and the making of this particular kind of millinery has become a special business. A pretty hat, soft and comfortable and one that will stay on, no matter how much the speed exceeds the limit—these are the things the motorist demands as essential. If in addition to these, durability and the appearance of a smart street or sports hat may be acquired all in one, so much the better for those who market the "marvel of ingenuity."

Here are two of the motor hats designed for spring, chosen from many others equally good and of the same character. They are made, by a method that is patented, with an elastic headband or headsize as the milliners term it, and they will stay on the head without the use of a pin to fasten them. A strong elastic cord is inserted in the base of the crown at the back and it serves to bind the hat to the head just as a garter holds up a stocking.

Millinery braids and fabrics are used for these hats, as for others, and their designers are not hampered by any lack of materials. Some materials like pongee silk, and soft kid leathers seem especially appropriate in them.

In the picture a hat is shown at the left having a braid trim and satin crown with an embroidered flower motif for decoration. This is made in brown, blue, green, rose, etc., and makes a satisfactory street hat, so

that its usefulness is not confined to motor wear.

The hat at the right is more distinctly for motor wear, made of natural color pongee bound with emerald green braid. Flat cabochons of the braid are used for ornament and a green chiffon veil is a part of the motorist's headwear outfit. The brim line in this hat is very graceful. Both models are soft and beautifully finished. They are wholly comfortable and the wearer will arrive at her journey's end with her hat on her head and not in a corner of the car.

*Julia Bottomley*

Only Make Them Shiny.

Almost the only requirement in the new hats seems to be "make them shiny." So long as a fabric or a straw presents a mirrorlike surface, it suits the popular demand. But there are exceptions even to that rule, for some very smart-looking sports hats are being shown made of the sheers of velvets underlaid with satin or taffeta, and certain madras and what looks like striped shirtings.

Worth Trying.

While buying silk stockings I was given by the clerk this bit of information: Before wearing silk stockings, rinse the toes and the heels in cold water and let them dry and you will be surprised to find how much longer the stockings will last.—From the *Illustrator*.

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## LANSING NOTES

Wants More Power.

C. L. Glasgow of the state railroad commission has declared that he is heartily in favor of legislation that will strengthen the powers of the commission in the matter of regulating stock and bond issues by public utilities corporations, and intimated that in the future no bond issue would be allowed without an appraisal of the property being made by a disinterested engineer. Commissioner Glasgow is of the opinion that the legislature made a serious mistake in refusing to pass the bill introduced during the last session of the legislature by Rep. Seymour H. Person of Lansing, which aimed to convert the railroad commission into a public utilities board with greatly increased powers. "While I regret the Constantine situation most keenly, I believe the disclosures in this case will cause the next legislature to give favorable consideration to the public utilities bill," said Commissioner Glasgow. "I certainly am in favor of any bill that will enable the commission to further safeguard the investing public," said Glasgow.

Causes of Death.

Secretary Burkart of the state board of health quotes statistics compiled by the federal census bureau showing that in the past ten years as a result of the activities of the anti tuberculosis societies the death rate from

tuberculosis in all forms has dropped from 200.7 to 146.8 per 100,000 population. According to the federal census the death rate from pneumonia and diphtheria has also dropped, but the death rate from heart disease has increased from 123.1 per 100,000 population to 150.8. It is the alarming increase in heart disease that prompted Burkart's little sermon.

Candidate for Governor.

Governor Ferris says in making his decision as to whether he will accept the democratic nomination for a third term, he will not be influenced by the entrance of Mr. Dickinson of Charlotte into the republican gubernatorial race. Gerrit J. Diekema of Holland, Albert E. Sleeper of Bad Axe and Washington Gardner of Albion appear to be Dickinson's principal opponents for the republican nomination at the present time.

Frederick C. Martindale of Detroit, who has been beaten for the governorship in the last two primary campaigns, has decided to enter the race a third time.

The Peace Society.

At a meeting in the executive office last week the Michigan chapter of the American branch of the League to Enforce Peace was formally organized with Thomas J. O'Brien of Grand Rapids as state chairman, Coleman C. Vaughan of St. Johns as secretary and A. F. Davis of Lansing as treasurer. It is the intention of those inter-

ested in the proposition in Michigan to bring speakers of prominence into the state and it is expected that meetings will be held in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Lansing and Grand Rapids during the next few months. William Howard Taft is president of the American Branch of the League to Enforce Peace which was organized at a meeting held in Philadelphia June 17, 1915. The organization of the league was not perfected for the purpose of attempting to end the present war, but is designed to prevent armed conflicts in the future.

Coal We Can't Get.

Beyond the depth of 4,000 feet it is impossible to get coal as a rule. The great heat is the chief obstacle in penetrating below 4,000 feet. At a depth of only 3,000 feet the temperature of the earth amounts to 98 degrees. The pressure of the air and coal above is another obstacle in the way. In the Deckfield colliery, at a depth of about 2,500 feet, the pressure became so great that it crushed in circular arches of brick four feet in thickness, and in one case a pillar of cast-iron, 12 inches square, supporting a roof only seven feet in extent, was snapped in two. It was estimated by the royal coal commissioners that the English coalfields contain, beneath the mining limit of 4,000 feet, no less than 48,488,000,000 tons of coal. Science some day will undoubtedly find a means of getting this vast quantity to the service.—Exchange.